Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claim 86. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1 – 85. (Canceled)

86.   (Currently amended) A method for <u>detecting the presence of specific antibodies</u> ~~the identification of antibodies~~ in experimental or <u>clinical</u> ~~diagnostic~~ samples, comprising:

a)   providing a ubiquitin fusion protein ~~of~~ selected from the group consisting of ~~ubiquint fusion proteins described in Claims 1, 20, 41 and 58~~ <u>i) a ubiquitin fusion protein comprising ubiquitin fused to a single epitope-containing segment, the epitope-containing segment comprising two or more identical epitopes, ii) a ubiquitin fusion protein comprising ubiquitin fused to two of more non-contiguous epitope-containing segments, each epitope-containing segment comprising one or more identical or non-identical epitopes, iii) a ubiquitin fusion protein comprising ubiquitin fused to a single epitope-containing segment comprising two or more identical or non-identical epitopes, the epitope-containing segments being fused to the ubiquitin at fusion sites selected form the groups consisting of the N-terminus and an internal fusion site and, iv) a ubiquitin fusion protein comprising ubiquitin fused to a single epitope-containing segment comprising one or more identical or non-identical epitopes, the epitope-containing segment being fused to ubiquitin at the N-terminus of the heat shock protein, wherein one or more epitopes are recognized by the antibody to be detected;</u>

b)   providing <u>a sample suspected of comprising</u> antibodies <u>reactive with one or more epitopes of the ubiquitin fusion protein, said sample acquired</u> from an experimental or clinical source;

c)   forming an incubation mixture comprising <u>the ubiquitin fusion protein of step a)</u> and the ~~antibodies~~ <u>sample</u> of step b); and

d)   detecting ~~binding of the~~ antibodies <u>in the sample</u> of step b) <u>that bind</u> to the <u>epitope or epitopes of the</u> ubiquitin fusion protein of step a).

87 – 100. (Canceled)